ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION

AND

ENQUIRY,

Exhibited to the

Church-Wardens and Side-Men of every PARISH

WITHIN THE

Arch-Deaconry of *London*,

IN THE

DIOCESS of *LONDON*;

In the YEAR

Arch Bod
1728 B. II. 56

BIBLIOTHECA · BODLEIANA

The OATH administred to the Church-Wardens.

YOU *do Swear that You will truly and faithfully Execute the Office of* Church-Warden *within Your Parish for the ensuing Year, according to the best of Your Skill and Knowledge; and make true Presentments of all Things and Persons, which You shall find presentable by the Ecclesiastical Laws of this Realm,*

So help You GOD.

The OATH administred to the Side-Men.

YOU *do Swear that You will be assistant to the Church-Wardens in the Execution of their Office, so far as by Law you are bound,*

So help You GOD.

ARTICLES
OF
VISITATION and ENQUIRY, &c.

TIT. I.

Concerning Churches and Chapels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

1. IS your Pariſh-Church or Chapel in good and ſufficient Repair, for the Roof, Windows, Floor and Seats, &c? *Canon* 85.

2. Hath any part of your Church, Chapel, or Steeple, been demoliſhed or pulled down? What part? How long ſince? Has any of the Lead, Timber or Bells thereunto formerly belonging, any way been embezzled or ſold? and by whom?

3. Is there a decent Font of Stone, with a Cover? Does it ſtand at *Can.* 81. or near the Weſt End of your Church, in ſuch manner as anciently and uſually Fonts have ſtood? Does the Miniſter Baptize publickly in that 82. Font only? Is there a decent Communion-Table in your Chancel, with a decent Carpet, and another Covering of Linen, to be ſpread thereon at the Time of adminiſtring the Lord's Supper? Have you a fair 20. Chalice, or Communion-Cup, with a Cover, and one or more Flaggons? Have they been prophaned or miſapplyed by other uſe?

4. Have you a convenient Seat for your Miniſter to read Divine Service in? 82. A Pulpit with a decent Cloth and Cuſhion? 83. A large Bible of the proper Tranſlation; together with a Common-Prayer-Book of the ſame? 80. Is your Common Prayer-Book corrected in ſuch Places as relate to the King and Royal Family, as by his Majeſty's Order, pur- *Stat.* ſuant to the *Act of Uniformity* it ought to be? 99. Have you the Book of Homilies, ſet forth by Authority? A Book of Canons? A printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited? And a decent Hood and Surplice?

5. Have you a Regiſter-Book in Parchment, of Chriſtenings, Burials and Marriages? 70. Is the ſame kept in all particulars according to the ancient Uſage? And is a Tranſcript of it ſent (as it ought) to the Biſhop's Regiſtry?

51, 52. 6. Have you a Paper-Book to Record the Names and Licenſes of ſuch Strangers as are admitted to preach in your Church or Chapel? And do ſuch Strangers ſubſcribe their Names? Have you another Book
70, 84. for the Church-Wardens Accounts? And a Cheſt with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the ſaid Books, and the Furniture before-mentioned?

TIT. II. *Concerning the Churchyard, Houſes, Glebes, and Tythes belonging to the Church.*

Can. 85. 1. IS your Church-yard ſufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Has any Perſon encroached on it, or made any Door into it? And how long ſince?

2. Is the Houſe of your Parſon, Vicar, or Curate, and the Out-Houſes in good Repair? Have any of them been pulled down without Licenſe from the Ordinary? Have there been Encroachments made on the ſame? Or have any of the ancient Marks or Bounds been removed or changed? and by whom?

87. 3. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-Lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to your Parſonage or Vicarage? As alſo an Account in Writing, or Note, of ſuch Penſions, Rate-Tythes, and Portions of Tythes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without your Pariſh) as belong thereunto? Have any of the ſame been withheld from your Miniſter? And by whom; as you know, or have heard?

TIT. III. *Concerning Miniſters.*

Stat. Eliz. 1. IS your Miniſter a Prieſt, or Deacon, Epiſcopally ordained?

2. Has he been legally inſtituted and inducted into his Benefice? Did he within two Months after his Induction, publickly in the Church, upon ſome Sunday or Holiday in the Time of Divine Service, read *the* XXXIX *Articles of the Church of* England, eſtabliſhed by Authority; and declare his Aſſent to them?

Can. 47. 3. Is your Miniſter reſident among you? How long has he been abſent from you? and upon what occaſion?

47, 48. 4. Has your Miniſter a Curate? Is that Curate Licenſed by the Ordinary? and conformable to the Laws of the Church?

14. 5. Does your Parſon, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer (if you have any) perform his Office in all Things according to the *Rubrick of Common-Prayer*, and the *Act of Uniformity?* Without either diminiſhing from, or adding any thing to the Matter and Form?

Stat.

58. 6. Does he at the reading of Divine Service wear a Surplice and Hood, according to his Degree in the Univerſity?

7. Does

7. Does he obſerve the Holidays, Faſt-days, and other Days appointed to be kept by the Rubrick? 14.

8. Is he a Miniſter Licenced to Preach? If ſo, does he conſtantly (not having a reaſonable Impediment) Preach one Sermon in your Church or Chapel every Sunday? Or if he be not Licenſed, or be hindred, does he provide one to ſupply his Office, by Preaching or Reading one of the Homilies? 45. 46.

9. Does your Miniſter (if reſiding) read once a Month in your Church or Chapel, the Common-Prayer himſelf in Perſon? Stat

10. Does he four times a Year read the *Act of Parliament againſt prophane Curſing and Swearing*, and his Majeſty's *Proclamation againſt Vice and Immorality*, in ſuch manner, and at ſuch times, as he is by Law required? Stat

11. Does your Miniſter in Preaching ſet forth Doctrines agreeable to the XXXIX Articles of Religion made and ſettled in Convocation, *Anno* 1562? Or has he at any time Preached contrary to the ſame?

12. Does your Miniſter uſe the Form of Prayer before his Sermon as he is directed by the Canon? And in that pray for our Sovereign Lord King *GEORGE*, as Supream Governor, over all Perſons, and in all Cauſes, as well Eccleſiaſtical as Temporal, *&c?* 55. 1.

13. Does he take all proper occaſions to confer with Popiſh Recuſants and other Sectaries, or Perſons *diſſenting from the Church of* England, *or diſaffected to the preſent Government?* Does he endeavour to bring ſuch to the true Religion profeſt and eſtabliſh'd in the *Church?* And encourage a Loyalty and Affection in them to *his Majeſty's Perſon and Government?* 66.

14. Does he inſtruct the Youth of your Pariſh in the Church-Catechiſm? And prepare them againſt the Biſhop's Confirmation? 59, 61. Rubr. to Catechiſm

15. Does your Miniſter neglect or delay to viſit the Sick, bury the Dead, or baptize any who are in Danger? Does he baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers? Or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children? 67, 68, 69. 29.

16. Has your Miniſter married any clandeſtinely in a private Houſe? Or irregularly? Without Banns, Licenſe, or Diſpenſation? Without conſent of Parents or Guardians? Or by any other Form? Or in any other manner than that directed by the Rubrick and Common-Prayer-Book? And who have been ſo married? 62. 100. Rubrick.

17. Is your Parſon, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a Man of a ſober Life and Converſation? Is his Dreſs and Apparel decent? Or is his Carriage in any kind diſorderly, ſcandalous, and unbecoming a Miniſter? 74, 75, 76.

Tit. IV. *Concerning Parishioners.*

1. IS there any Person in your Parish, who liveth under a *Common Fame or Suspicion* of Incest, Adultery, or Fornication? Are there any common Drunkards in your Parish, common Swearers, or Blasphemers of God's Name, *&c?* Any who are noted to be Railers, Unclean, and filthy Talkers, or Sowers of Sedition, Faction, or Discord?

2. Do any upon *Sundays* follow their ordinary Business or Labour? Are any Shops kept open, or Wares sold? Or do any Vintners, Innkeepers, or other Victuallers and Sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any Persons to waste their Time, or tipple in their Houses?

3. Are there any who are irreverent at Church? Any who loyter, or are noisy in the Church-yard during the Time of divine Service?

4. Have you any Persons, who under a Pretence of going to some *Meeting* by Law *tolerated*, wholly neglect all publick Worship of God, and go to no Place at all on *Sundays?*

5. Have you any Assemblies for religious Worship in your Parish besides your Church or Chapel? Have they certified the Place of their Meeting to the Bishop, Archdeacon, or such other Person as the Statute directs? Do they meet with their Doors locked, barred or bolted, during the Time of their divine Service? Have their Preachers subscribed *the* XXXIX *Articles of Religion* (except those who are excepted by the said Act) and have such taken the Oaths, and subscribed the Declaration therein required?

Rubr. to Baptism. 6. Is there any who refuse to send their Infant Children to be baptized in the Church, unless in Case of Danger? Do they send them to be baptized in other Parishes? Are they baptized after any other Form than what is appointed by Rubrick? Are they kept longer unbaptized than is proper and allowed? Are there any Persons of riper Years as yet unbaptized? And who are they?

7. Are there any who are denounced and declared Excommunicated for any Crime? How long have they been so Excommunicated? Are they suffered to come to Church? Or do any keep Society with them before they are reconciled to the Church, and absolved?

Table. An. 1563. 8. Are there any who have been unlawfully married, contrary to the Laws of God? Any who being lawfully divorced have married again? Or any who being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by Course of Law, do not co-habit together?

Rubr. Rubr. 9. Are there any married Women, who after Delivery from the Peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick Thanksgiving to God in Church? When they come so to do, are they decent? And do they make their Offering according to Custom?

10. Are

10. Are there any who refuse to pay their Easter Offerings, or to contribute to the Rates made for the Repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing belonging thereunto? *Ru*

11. Is there any Dispute or Contention among your Parishioners about Pews or Seats in the Church? Have any Pews, Galleries, or Monuments been erected in your Chancel, Church, or Chapel? Or have any Vaults been made in any of them without License or Faculty from the Ordinary? Or has any buried Corps been removed without?

12. Are there any Wills of Persons dead in your Parish not yet proved, or any Goods administred without Authority from the Ordinary? Are there any Gifts or Legacies, made or left to the Church, Poor, or to other pious Uses? What are they? How have they been bestowed Have they been misemployed or embezzled?

TIT. V. *Concerning Parish Clerks and Sextons.*

1. HAVE you belonging to your Church or Chapel a Clerk, aged twenty Years at least? Is he of honest Life and Conversation And sufficiently able to perform his Duty in Reading, Writing, and Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister? And does he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his Wages duly paid him? Or who withholds the same from him? *Can.*

2. Does he, or your Sexton, (if you have any one such appointed) take Care of your Church or Chapel? Does he see that the Doors be locked, and opened in due Time? Does he Ring and Toll the Bell or Bells, at the usual Hours before Divine Service, that the People may be warned to come to Church? And when any Person is dying, does he upon Notice given him thereof, toll a Bell, that the Neighbours may be warned thereby to meditate on their own Deaths, and commend the Soul of the dying Person to the Grace and Mercy of God?

TIT. VI. *Concerning Shoolmasters, Schools, Physicians, Surgeons, and Midwives.*

1. DOES any Man keep a publick School in your Parish? Is he licensed by the Ordinary? Does he teach the Youth the Church-Catechism, and bring them to Church at all proper Times? *Can.* 77, 78, 79 *Stat.* 1. *Jac.* 1. c

2. Does any one in your Parish practise Physick, or Surgery? Does any Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of a Midwife? Are they all licensed? Who is not?

Tit. VII. *Concerning Church-Wardens and Side-men.*

89. 1. ARE the Church-Wardens of your Pariſh, yearly and duly choſen by the joint Conſent of your Miniſter and Pariſhioners? Or one by your Miniſter, and the other by your Pariſhioners?

8,19 2. Do your Church-Wardens and Side-men note them who come too late to Church, after Service is partly over? Or depart before the whole is ended? Do they ſuffer none to ſtand idle, or talk in the Church-yard or Porch during the Service?

3. Do they ſuffer no Miſbehaviour or Indecency to be committed in the Church? Do they take Care againſt every Communion-Day to *br. to mmu- n.* provide a ſufficient Quantity of fine white Bread, and wholſome Wine for the Communicants, as in the Rubrick to that Service is directed and required? Do they at any Time diſpoſe of the Money given at the Offertory, without the Concurrence of your Miniſter?

Tit. VIII. *Of Apparitors and other Eccleſiaſtical Officers.*

. 134. 35. 38. IS the Numher of your Apparitors too great? Have any of them, or any other Eccleſiaſtical Officer in this Arch-deaconry exacted exceſſive Fees? Or taken any Bribe for Concealment, or Impunity of Delinquents? Or have they threatned Proſecutions where they have had no Reward? Or any otherwiſe miſbehaved themſelves in their Offices?

N. B. *You are to exhibit a Bill of Preſentment to this Court, of all and* n. 119. 18. *every the Offenders in any of the Matters mentioned in theſe precedent Articles, and therein to take the Advice and Aſſiſtance of your Miniſter; and the Miniſter, or Curate in his Abſence, may join with the Church-Wardens in their Preſentments; and upon Neglect of the Church-Wardens, he is bound* n. 113. 114. *under the greateſt Obligations (for the more effectual Suppreſſion of Wickedneſs and Vice) to preſent himſelf, all ſuch Things as he knows amiſs and preſentable in his Pariſh.*

n. 119. *It is expected that every Church-Warden and Side-man do attend the prayers and Sermon at the Viſitation; and that they come with their Preſentments ready framed and drawn; otherwiſe they ſhall be rejected and proſecuted for Neglect.*

FINIS.